

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1250, to create a national artificial intelligence strategy.

For decades, American leadership in emerging technologies has created prosperity and security across the world, but this leadership is no longer guaranteed. As the Chinese Communist Party continues to use any means possible to become the next world power and world's leader in AI, it is all the more vital that the U.S. have our own strategic plan.

For almost a year, Representative ROBIN KELLY and I worked with policy experts, stakeholders, and the Bipartisan Policy Center to develop guidelines that will prepare America's workforce, counter our adversaries, promote research and development, and shape the ethics of AI based on America's values.

This resolution outlines specific steps and actions the Federal Government should take to ensure our global leadership in this emerging technology. If we don't take advantage of AI, Mandarin and the yuan—not English and the dollar—could dominate the global economy.

Vladimir Putin once said that whoever masters AI will master the world. That is why America—not Russia and not China—must be at the helm.

I came to Congress to make our Nation safer, and I am proud one of my last pieces of legislation before this body will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, ROBIN KELLY, for partnering with me on this critical effort and our staffs for making this happen. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MONICA RUSSO

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the remarkable career of Monica Russo.

After decades of service, Ms. Russo is retiring as executive vice president of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the largest local union in the Nation, representing more than 400,000 healthcare workers in five States and more than 25,000 healthcare workers in Florida.

Under her leadership, 1199SEIU Florida has grown to represent more than 30,000 healthcare workers and retirees, becoming the largest union of healthcare workers in Florida and the Southern United States. She also serves as international vice president of the SEIU and as president of SEIU Florida State Council, where she politically unites more than 55,000 active and retired SEIU members, from bus drivers and janitors to healthcare workers.

Her emphasis on multicultural leadership development and grassroots, member-driven organization building has given a voice and power to healthcare workers, women, immigrants, and the working class.

Monica Russo's commitment to our Nation's working families is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my sister and dear and treasured friend. I will miss her guidance and wisdom, but our loss is her family's gain. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work.

PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

(Mr. STEIL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act.

In southeast Wisconsin, the Great Lakes are vital to our environment, our economy, our health, and our way of life. Let me put it this way: If the Great Lakes region were a country, it would have the third largest economy in the world.

We must pass WRDA to protect the Great Lakes, invest in America's water infrastructure, and generate economic growth.

Earlier this year, I urged the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to include the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study and the Brandon Road project in WRDA. Both programs are included in today's bill. These programs detect vulnerabilities along the Great Lakes shoreline and prevent invasive species in the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to pass WRDA and support the Great Lakes for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE RAIIF BADAWI

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, December 10 is recognized around the world as Human Rights Day.

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that spirit, I am here today to call on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release blogger and human rights activist Raif Badawi.

In 2014, Raif Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for operating a website that encouraged debate on religious and political issues in his country.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is claiming to be a reformer intent on modernizing Saudi Arabia. Raif Badawi's case plainly disproves that claim.

Raif Badawi will soon celebrate his 37th birthday in prison, the ninth

birthday he will have spent away from his wife and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Saudi Government must immediately and unconditionally release Raif Badawi and all other Saudi prisoners of conscience.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marc Lee, who was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions on August 2, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq. Today, the House will pass my bill, H.R. 6016, to rename a U.S. Post Office in his honor.

Marc's mother, Debbie Lee, from Surprise, Arizona, in my district, had the following to say on this momentous occasion:

"Marc Lee, the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq, loved deeply and was deeply loved. He selflessly sacrificed his life to save his teammates. Naming this post office will keep his legacy alive and remind us to live lives worthy of their sacrifices."

It was my honor to introduce this legislation to remember the service and sacrifice of Marc Lee.

NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate passage of H. Res. 1250, recognizing the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.

In early 2018, Representative HURD, as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Information Technology, and myself, as the ranking member, held the first congressional hearing on artificial intelligence.

This resolution is born out of those hearings and the culmination of over a year's work with the Bipartisan Policy Center, bringing together experts from government, the private sector, and civil society to outline priorities to ensure the United States remains a leader in AI.

AI has the potential to fundamentally change our society. The U.S. needs a national strategy now to invest in our workforce, R&D, national security, and oversight agencies to ensure AI is a positive tool that will benefit all of society.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation was able to pass before my friend and close IT partner for the past 6 years, Representative HURD, retires from this body.

This Chamber has been made better by his spirit of bipartisanship and desire to protect our Nation and prepare

it to meet the challenges of the next century. Representative HURD's work will not be forgotten, and I will miss him dearly.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, "I have felt fear at some of the things I have seen here. I have seen amazing things and I have seen sad things, but being in Iraq makes me realize what a great country we have."

These are the words of Navy SEAL Marc Lee in his last letter home before making the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Ramadi, Iraq.

My son, Leif, served with Marc on SEAL Team 3 and was with him during his final act of honor. By all accounts, faith, courage, and determination were Marc's guiding principles. They carried him throughout his valiant career.

Thanks to Marc and many men like him, good continues to triumph over evil. In their violent wake, they leave behind humility, love, and selflessness, reminding me of John 3:13:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

(Ms. CHENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 6016, designating the United States Postal Service facility in Arizona as the Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building. This is a fitting honor and tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class Marc Alan Lee for his heroic actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On August 2, 2006, while on patrol in Ramadi, Marc Lee fearlessly exposed himself to direct enemy fire in order to protect the lives of his teammates. He gave his life for his brothers and for our freedom.

He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day. In the words of Jocko Willink, commander of Task Unit Bruiser, Marc's unit in Iraq, Marc was "one of those rare men, those true heroes, the ones who rose above the rest of us to symbolize courage and faith and selflessness and love."

As we honor Marc Lee today, let us all recommit ourselves to cherishing the freedom for which he died and to living lives worthy of the sacrifice of all our men and women who have given their lives for our liberty.

God bless Marc and his family, and God bless the United States of America.

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BIDDING FAREWELL TO SETH KLAIMAN

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to a vital member of my team and my right-hand man in Rhode Island for the last 7 years. Seth Klaiman joined my staff as district director and then my Rhode Island chief of staff after working for several cycles on my reelection campaign. The people of Rhode Island's Second District could not have asked for a more dedicated public servant.

Seth worked nonstop, and he embodied the phrase "underpromise and overdeliver." His organizational skills are unparalleled, and he was instrumental in helping me manage my most valuable resource, my time, on behalf of the people of Rhode Island.

Seth is leaving to serve as chief of staff to our State Treasurer, Seth Magaziner. It is a terrific opportunity for him to continue to serve the Ocean State. And while I am sad to see him go, I wish him the very best of luck in his new role.

To Seth, his wife, Ann, and their new son, Sebastian, I offer my sincerest thanks for your years making me look good and all the work you have done on behalf of the people of Rhode Island. I often say that we are only as good as the people around us, and I am lucky to have had a decade spent with you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK "PAL" BARGER, JR.

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a giant in northeast Tennessee and my friend, Frederick "Pal" Barger, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 90.

Pal's impact on our community was tremendous. Pal is best known for Pal's Sudden Service, a drive-through restaurant with rapid service, great food, and affordable prices.

In 2001, Pal's became the first restaurant to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence. Pal is one of northeast Tennessee's best success stories.

Pal's commitment to excellence didn't stop at the drive-through window. He received recognition throughout his life for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to help our region prosper.

I am especially grateful for Pal's contributions to his alma mater, East Tennessee State University, which have greatly impacted so many of our region's current and future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of Pal Barger for his tremendous impact on our community.

HONORING COACH NICK GIEBER

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kansas Middle School wrestling coach Nick Gieber. To be clear, he is not dead. He is way too tough for that.

For decades, Coach Gieber would transform boys into men through wrestling practices that were so hard we thought that death was an option. But it wasn't just developing us mentally and physically, he also developed a sense of camaraderie, rapport, integrity, and honor. He would say, "You never know, boys. Today could be the most beautiful day in the world."

Coach Gieber, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives, thank you. And you never know, today could be the most beautiful day in the world.

NATIONAL BORINQUEÑEERS DAY

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NDAA.

This bill includes an amendment I introduced, along with Representative MURPHY and Senator RICK SCOTT, to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Borinqueneers, by designating April 13 as National Borinqueneers Day.

On April 13, 2016, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to these patriots for their numerous contributions to American history and their outstanding military service from World War I through the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This bill also authorizes \$37 million in military construction funding for the National Guard Readiness Center in Puerto Rico. It also includes the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, which incorporates my amendment requiring the Coast Guard Academy Minority Outreach Team program to include officers from the U.S. territories, and requiring the Academy's diversity report to include information on the effectiveness of outreach and recruitment efforts for the territories as well.

JOSEPH RAINEY: 150 YEARS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, America recognizes 150 years since Joseph Rainey, the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, took office.

I am grateful for South Carolinian Joseph Rainey, a Republican, a champion of civil rights, for breaking